

for nursing home care furnished in a non-Department nursing home (as that term is defined in subsection (e)(2) of such section), where such care is provided to any veteran as follows:

“(A) Any veteran in need of such care for a service-connected disability.

“(B) Any veteran who—

“(i) has a service-connected disability rated at 70 percent or more; and

“(ii) is in need of such care.

“(2) Payment by the Secretary under paragraph (1) to a State home for nursing home care provided to a veteran described in that paragraph constitutes payment in full to the State home for such care furnished to that veteran.”.

(b) PROVISION OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) The Secretary shall furnish such drugs and medicines as may be ordered on prescription of a duly licensed physician as specific therapy in the treatment of illness or injury to any veteran as follows:

“(1) Any veteran in need of such drugs and medicines for a service-connected disability.

“(2) Any veteran who—

“(A) has a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more;

“(B) is provided nursing home care that is payable under subsection (a); and

“(C) is in need of such drugs and medicines.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) CRITERIA FOR PAYMENT.—Section 1741(a)(1) of such title is amended by striking “The” and inserting “Except as provided in section 1744 of this title, the”.

(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR NURSING HOME CARE.—Section 1710(a)(4) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking “and” before “the requirement in section 1710B of this title”; and

(B) by inserting “, and the requirement in section 1744 of this title to provide nursing home care and prescription medicines to veterans with service-connected disabilities in State homes” after “a program of extended care services”.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1743 the following new item:

“1744. Nursing home care and medications for veterans with service-connected disabilities.”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2006.

SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO TREAT CERTAIN HEALTH FACILITIES AS STATE HOMES.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Subchapter III of chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 8138. Treatment of certain health facilities as State homes

“(a) The Secretary may treat a health facility as a State home for purposes of subchapter V of chapter 17 of this title if the following requirements are met:

“(1) The facility meets the standards for the provision of nursing home care that is applicable to State homes, as prescribed by the Secretary under section 8134(b) of this title, and such other standards relating to the facility as the Secretary may require.

“(2) The facility is licensed or certified by the appropriate State and local agencies charged with the responsibility of licensing or otherwise regulating or inspecting State home facilities.

“(3) The State demonstrates in an application to the Secretary that, but for the treat-

ment of a facility as a State home under this subsection, a substantial number of veterans residing in the geographic area in which the facility is located who require nursing home care will not have access to such care.

“(4) The Secretary determines that the treatment of the facility as a State home best meets the needs of veterans for nursing home care in the geographic area in which the facility is located.

“(5) The Secretary approves the application submitted by the State with respect to the facility.

“(b) The Secretary may not treat a health facility as a State home under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such treatment would increase the number of beds allocated to the State in excess of the limit on the number of beds provided for by regulations prescribed under section 8134(a) of this title.

“(c) The number of beds occupied by veterans in a health facility for which payment may be made under subchapter V of chapter 17 of this title by reason of subsection (a) shall not exceed the number of veterans in beds in State homes that otherwise would be permitted in the State under regulations prescribed under section 8134(a) of this title.

“(d) The number of beds in a health facility in a State that has been treated as a State home under subsection (a) shall be taken into account in determining the unmet need for beds for State homes for the State under section 8134(d)(1) of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 81 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8137 the following new item:

“8138. Treatment of certain health facilities as State homes.”.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 2764. A bill to amend Public Law 108-67 to correct a provision relating to the conveyance of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2764

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CORRECTION OF CONVEYANCE.

Section 2 of Public Law 108-67 (117 Stat. 880) is amended—

(1) by striking “Subject to” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to”;

(2) in subsection (a) (as designated by paragraph (1)), by striking “the parcel” and all that follows and inserting the following: “and to a portion comprising approximately 23 acres of land of Lots 3 and 4, as depicted on the United States and Encumbrance Map, revised January 10, 1991, for the Toiyabe National Forest, Ranger District Carson-1, and more particularly described as S½NW¼SE¼ and N½SW¼SE¼ of sec. 27, T. 15 N., R. 18 E., Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE.—Nothing in this Act prohibits any approved general public access (through existing easements or by

boat) to or use of land remaining within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit after the conveyance to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Tribe, under subsection (a), including access to and use of the beach and shoreline areas adjacent to the portion of land conveyed under that subsection.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 469—CONDEMNING THE APRIL 25, 2006, BEATING AND INTIMIDATION OF CUBAN DISSIDENT MARTHA BEATRIZ ROQUE

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 469

Whereas the 47-year communist dictatorship of Fidel Castro in Cuba received the lowest rating from Freedom House in its “Freedom in the World 2005” report for political rights and civil liberties, and is categorized by that organization as “repressive” and having “virtually no freedom”;

Whereas Human Rights Watch describes Cuba in its “World Report 2006” as “an undemocratic government that represses nearly all forms of political dissent”;

Whereas human rights observers have documented that the regime in Cuba attempts to intimidate human rights dissidents and their families through “acts of repudiation,” consisting of mobs of regime supporters screaming threats and insults;

Whereas, on April 25, 2006, an act of repudiation against Martha Beatriz Roque became violent when she was punched, knocked down, and dragged outside her home in Havana while she was leaving to attend a meeting with Michael E. Parmly, the Chief of Mission-Designate for the United States Interests Section in Havana, Cuba;

Whereas Martha Beatriz Roque is a citizen of Cuba and leader of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba, a coalition of 365 independent civil society groups within Cuba;

Whereas, in March 2003, the regime of Fidel Castro imprisoned dozens of Cuban dissidents including Martha Beatriz Roque for their activities supporting freedom and democracy; and

Whereas Martha Beatriz Roque was released in 2005 for health reasons without a pardon or a commutation of her sentence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the brutality of the regime of Fidel Castro toward Martha Beatriz Roque, a 61-year-old woman in frail health;

(2) demands the regime of Cuba allow the people of Cuba to exercise their fundamental human rights, rather than responding to calls for freedom with imprisonment and intimidation;

(3) commends the courage and perseverance of Martha Beatriz Roque and all dissidents in Cuba;

(4) calls on the regime of Cuba to release the hundreds of political prisoners still held today and to stop the intimidation of dissidents and their families; and

(5) calls for continued international support and solidarity with pro-democracy leaders in Cuba.